

The agreement in the Senate on this was 95 to 0. You don't get more bipartisan than 95 to 0. I am pretty sure if the other five people would have been here, it would been 100 to 0. That is agreement. That is because this desperately needs to be done. I am glad the House is going to take a look at it. In fact, the chairman told me that they would be using this bill as a blueprint.

I assured him if he used that as a blueprint and took the wording that goes with it, it can be done reasonably. Around here we usually do not do that sort of thing, though, because each of us has to get a fingerprint on everything, and that slows down the process sometimes. But I suspect it will be fairly close to what we have done here. It needs to be done as soon as possible.

Now, I began my thank-yous earlier. I want to finish my thank-yous and my speech. Besides Katherine McGuire and Beth Buehlmann on my staff, I wanted to thank Ann Clough, Adam Briddell, Amy Shank, Ilyse Schuman, Greg Dean, and Kelly Hastings.

I would be very remiss if I did not thank the members of Senator KENNEDY's staff for their hard work and cooperation: Michael Myers, Carmel Martin, JD LaRock, Missy Rohrbach, and Erin Renner.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of the HELP Committee and their staffs for their hard work throughout this process. This has been one of the most contentious committees in years past. When we are working on education and health, this is one of the most cooperative committees in the Senate.

We do intend to make progress in all four of the areas that we work in. We got the pensions area pretty well wrapped up last year. There has been a little technical correction portion that we have to get done yet.

There are always different things in the pension area. But we made some significant changes in the labor area last year, too, that have come to light in recent weeks with the first change, the biggest change in mine safety in 28 years. We will be reviewing the tragedy that happened in Utah to see how that fits in with what we did or did not get accomplished and will look at future changes.

But it took us 28 years to make the first major change. It will not hurt if it gets to 24 or 28 months before we get the reports in that help us to analyze any other changes that we need to make.

Once again, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, for his tremendous effort, his tremendous knowledge, his capabilities to explain and come through with the ideas, sometimes compromises, but quite often a third way of doing things. It makes a huge difference in the result.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CAHILL AND WARREN PAYNE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I pause for a moment today, with thou-

sands from across the country who have gathered in Boston, to remember the lives of two of our Massachusetts firefighters, Paul Cahill and Warren Payne, who were laid to rest yesterday and today in West Roxbury and Dorchester. A week ago, Warren and Paul, lost their lives in heroically combating a 4-alarm fire in West Roxbury. We proudly honor the memory of these two heroes who gave their lives so courageously and unselfishly in the line of duty. We are deeply grateful for their service, and we mourn their loss.

Paul Cahill was 55 and a father of three children. He had previously served in the U.S. Navy and he joined the Boston Fire Department in 1993.

Warren Payne was 53, and a father of two children. He had been a firefighter for 19 years, and was not scheduled to be on call that night, but he had agreed to help a friend.

Both Paul and Warren were men of immense bravery and dedication, and were committed to the lives and the well-being of their community. Each day they served our city, they were ready to place themselves on the front lines, and the people of Boston will never forget their outstanding service and the difference they made.

My heart is in Boston today with the firefighters from across the country, and especially those from Engine 30, Ladder 25 in West Roxbury. They did the job they loved to do. May God bless Paul and Warren, and all of their family and friends who have gathered in Boston to grieve for them.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WARNER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is with a touch of sadness that I speak about my friend, the senior Senator from Virginia, JOHN WARNER, who announced last week that he will not seek a sixth term and will return to the Commonwealth he loves so well following the conclusion of the 110th Congress. We will miss our friend, our colleague, and one of our finest and most respected members.

JOHN WARNER is a true American patriot, who has spent his life serving the public good. From volunteering to serve in World War II at the age of 17, to his service as Secretary of the Navy and his years among us in the Senate, his life has been defined by a commitment of service to others.

First and foremost a Virginia gentleman, JOHN WARNER is also one of the greatest advocates our fighting men and women have ever had in the U.S. Senate, consistently supporting their interests regardless of the prevailing winds.

He was an extraordinary chairman of the Armed Services Committee, where he helped transform the Committee from a Cold War posture to a new focus on emerging threats, rapid technological changes, and asymmetric warfare. The changes he made helped usher the committee into the 21st Century. As his colleague on the committee for

a quarter century, I can attest to the unrivalled depth of his understanding of our Nation's military, and was grateful to have the opportunity to call upon him innumerable times over the years for his wise counsel.

In addition to his commitment and dedication to our military and to a strong national defense, JOHN WARNER is also the embodiment of the finest traditions of the Senate. Deliberate, thoughtful, and principled, over the past 28 years he has shown us all that we can disagree without being disagreeable, and that the demands of party must yield to the demands of the American people that we do our very best to support our armed forces in their all-important missions for our country and our future.

Time after time, he has demonstrated his courage, decency and high principles in the Senate, whatever the partisan passions of the moment. That is who JOHN WARNER is—someone who thinks long and hard about important decisions, and then does what he feels is right.

I am sure he and Jeanne thought long and hard about the decision to retire from the Senate, and I know it wasn't an easy call. He will leave enormous shoes to fill for the next person elected to serve the people of Virginia in this body.

I will miss serving side by side with JOHN WARNER in the next Congress, but I am grateful we will have him here in the Senate for the coming year, especially, as we work to find answers to the extraordinarily complex and dangerous situation we confront in the Middle East. I am sure that all of us admire him for his statesmanship and leadership.

And we are especially grateful for his friendship, which extended to my brothers Jack and Bobby as well.

We will miss him very much.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from Oregon is recognized for 10 minutes.

ADMIRATION FOR SENATOR KENNEDY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, we have seen with Chairman KENNEDY over the last 2 minutes why he is so admired by Senators on both sides of the aisle. We have seen how he has engineered critically important bipartisan legislation that helps our working families in the education area. We have heard him speak eloquently about fallen firefighters. We admire them so tremendously in Boston and across the country. Of course,